

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Kaoru YAMADA et al. : **Mail Stop: PCT**  
Serial No. NEW : Attorney Docket No. 2006-0044A  
Filed January 18, 2006 :

SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS,  
SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD, AND  
SUBSTRATE HOLDING APPARATUS  
[Corresponding to PCT/JP2004/011101  
Filed July 28, 2004]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application  
PCT/\_\_\_\_\_; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the  
above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**

**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

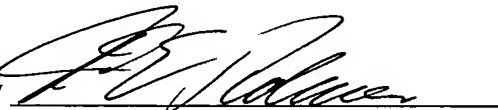
- a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
  - b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
  - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e. ☒ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:  
U.S. 6,220,935 corresponds to JP 11-151467
5. ☒ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaoru YAMADA et al.

By



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January 18, 2006

Sheet 1 of 1

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: January 18, 2006

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2006-0044ASERIAL NO.  
NEW

10/564980

APPLICANT  
Kaoru YAMADA et al.FILING DATE  
January 18, 2006

GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,220,935	4/2001	Furusawa et al.			
	AB	5,966,765	10/1999	Hamada et al.			
	AC	2005/0092351	5/2005	Saito et al.			
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AG	01/84621	11/2001	WO			abstract
	AH	11-297808	10/1999	JP			abstract
	AI	7-283107	10/1995	JP			abstract
	AJ	11-151467	6/1999	JP			abstract
	AK	2003-197591	7/2003	JP			abstract
	AL	10-180198	7/1998	JP			abstract
	AM	2004-55927	2/2004	JP			abstract
	AN	9-270412	10/1997	JP			abstract
	AO	2001-68449	3/2001	JP			abstract
	AP	63-86177	4/1988	JP			abstract

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AQ	
	AR	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.